UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/48/933
S/1994/515
2 May 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-eighth session
Agenda item 42
THE SITUATION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-ninth year

Letter dated 29 April 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to attach herewith the text of the final declaration of the Ministerial Meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Contact Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina, adopted in New York on 27 April 1994 (see annex).

I would appreciate it if you could kindly have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 42, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jamsheed K. A. MARKER
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
and Chairman of the OIC Contact Group
on Bosnia and Herzegovina in New York

ANNEX

Final declaration of the Ministerial Meeting of the OIC Contact Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina, adopted in New York on 27 April 1994

1. The Foreign Ministers of the States members of the OIC Contact Group (OICCG) on Bosnia and Herzegovina held an emergency meeting at the United Nations, New York, on 27 April 1994 to consider the rapidly deteriorating situation arising from the continuing Serbian aggression against the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

2. The Foreign Ministers strongly condemn the brutal Serbian offensive on the United Nations-designated "safe area" of Gorazde, which, once again, so tragically and so poignantly underscores the failure of all international efforts to deter and end the Serbian aggression.

3. The Foreign Ministers hold the Belgrade regime and its surrogate in Bosnia and Herzegovina fully responsible for the cold-blooded massacre in Gorazde of over 700 innocent civilians, the maiming of more than 2,000 others and the forced displacement of more than 20,000 people. The perpetration of these crimes constitutes genocide and is in blatant violation of all norms of international humanitarian law. OICCG expresses its full support for the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 and calls for a vigorous prosecution of those responsible for organizing and perpetrating the atrocities committed in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

4. The Foreign Ministers deeply regret the inability of the United Nations to preserve the inviolability of the "safe areas" designated by the Security Council, thus eroding the confidence that the people of the world place in the United Nations.

5. The Foreign Ministers stress that the imperatives of justice, humanity, morality and international law should not be ignored, under any circumstances. They reaffirm the need for the full implementation of Security Council and General Assembly resolutions pertaining to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

6. The Foreign Ministers declare that Security Council resolution 713 (1991) does not apply to the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and that the de facto arms embargo being maintained against this Government is illegal, unjust and in direct contradiction of Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations and of the relevant General Assembly resolutions. In this context, the OIC Contact Group in New York will table a resolution in the Security Council, as soon as possible, to proclaim that the provisions of Security Council resolution 713 (1991) do not apply to the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

7. The Foreign Ministers urge the international community, particularly OIC member States, to extend their fullest cooperation to the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the exercise of its inherent and inalienable right of

individual and collective self-defence under Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations.

8. The Foreign Ministers welcome the decision of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Council regarding the extension of the "Sarajevo exclusion zone model" to other United Nations-declared "safe areas" in Bosnia and Herzegovina. They emphasize the necessity of employing massive air-power, in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions, for purposes of deterrence and interdiction of Serbian military supply lines being used to violate the safety and sanctity of United Nations "safe areas", by preemptive measures, if necessary.

9. The Foreign Ministers demand the full and complete withdrawal of Serbian heavy weapons from Gorazde as specified in the NATO ultimatum of 22 April 1994. They further demand that all Serbian military personnel withdraw from the entire United Nations-designated "safe area" of Gorazde and its surrounding areas as defined in Security Council resolution 824 (1993). They also demand the removal of all heavy weapons in the possession of Bosnian Serbs to Serbia-Montenegro, as called for in Security Council resolution 752 (1992). The Foreign Ministers emphasize the need for full implementation of Security Council resolution 838 (1993) to interdict completely the transference of weapons to the Bosnian Serbs from Serbia-Montenegro.

10. The Foreign Ministers call for the strengthening of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina and, in this context, urge the United Nations to avail itself of the standing offers of troop contributions to UNPROFOR made by several OIC States. The OIC States reaffirm their readiness to provide immediately to UNPROFOR as many ground forces as may be required.

11. The Foreign Ministers call for the review of the mandate of UNPROFOR in order to enable it to provide full and effective security to the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

12. While expressing support for the convening of an international peace conference on the former Yugoslavia, the Foreign Ministers emphasize that such a conference has to be formally based on the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and consistent with the provisions of relevant Security Council resolutions. The Foreign Ministers also emphasize that every effort should be made to ensure that such a conference is not utilized by the Serbs as a cover in order to execute or legitimize their war objectives and annexationist designs. They are of the view that the Serb withdrawal from Gorazde and the establishment of an "exclusion zone" must precede the holding of the conference and that the States members of the OIC Contact Group should be invited to attend the conference as participants as well as any other peace initiative on Bosnia and Herzegovina.

13. The Foreign Ministers emphasize the necessity to preserve the unity and indivisibility of Sarajevo as the capital of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

14. The Foreign Ministers express their satisfaction at the conclusion of the Washington Agreement between the Muslims and Croats and the confederal

arrangements with the Republic of Croatia, and consider this an important first step towards an overall political settlement in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

15. The Foreign Ministers call for the tightening of the existing sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) until Serbia and Montenegro are in full compliance with the relevant Security Council resolutions and till the establishment of a comprehensive peace settlement.

16. The Foreign Ministers reaffirm their decision taken at Geneva to continue to review their economic relations with those Governments which continue to impede the achievement of a just settlement by acts and policies aimed at rewarding the aggressor and legitimizing the fruits of aggression, and decide to evolve a joint OIC position on this important question as soon as possible.

17. The Foreign Ministers remind the international community of the plight of the people of the Sanjak and Kosova, and of the need to provide them effective international protection.

18. The Foreign Ministers also urge the international community to intensify humanitarian relief efforts in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in this context call for urgent steps to reopen the Tuzla airport on a regular basis. They also commend the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for carrying out, in an outstanding manner, its noble mission.

19. The Foreign Ministers call for the establishment of an OIC Trust Fund for the Reconstruction of Bosnia and Herzegovina and urge member States to contribute generously to this Fund.

20. The Foreign Ministers reaffirm their total support for the just struggle of the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the safeguarding of the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of their country.

21. The Foreign Ministers decide to intensify further their efforts in the Security Council and with NATO and other international bodies towards the fulfilment of the objectives stipulated in this declaration. Should these efforts fail to yield the desired result, OIC will seek to convene an urgent session of the United Nations General Assembly with a view to seeking peace with justice in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

22. Conscious of the urgency of resolving the crisis in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Foreign Ministers endorse the proposal of the Government of Algeria to hold, as a matter of priority, an emergency ministerial meeting of the full membership of OIC.